



Greetings from District 9~2 Councilman Ford Canale



City of Memphis Service Numbers

Animal Shelter:

901-636-1416

Citizen Service Center:

901-636-6500 (311)

City of Memphis Solid Waste**Holiday Line:**

901-636-6650

Health Department:

901-222-9000

Non-Emergency Police:

901-545-2677

Memphis City Beautiful:

901-636-4410

Memphis City Council Office:

901-636-6786

Memphis Code Enforcement:

901-636-7464

Memphis Light, Gas, & Water:

901-544-6549

Memphis Police Department**Organized Crime Unit:**

901-525-3673

Public Works:

901-636-6762

Shelby County Code Enforcement:

901-222-8300

Solid Waste:

901-636-6876

Spring is buzzing with the Budget

With the arrival of Spring at City Hall comes the arrival of Budget Season. City Administration has spent the last few months hammering out a proposed Budget. I and my fellow Councilmembers got a first look at that proposal when the Mayor presented it to the Council at our March 19 meeting. The slightly more than \$750 million Budget includes numerous projects aimed at improving the quality of life for Memphis citizens, including raises for Public Safety employees, funding for a 17-member team focused on illegal dumping, the first-ever dedicated revenue stream for the Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA) and more than \$100 million for various facility improvement projects.

On May 4, the Council dove into the proposed budget, holding hearings with each of the City Divisions and with City Grant Recipients and Agencies such as the Blight Authority of Memphis and the Memphis River Parks Partnership. The proposed Budget will have its First Reading with the Council at the May 10 Regular Meeting, and is projected for Third Reading and final approval at the Council's June 7 meeting. Before the wrap-up, though, the Council also will hear presentations from selected applicants for the annual Council Community Grant. These hearings will determine which of the applicants who present will receive a share of the more than \$2 million allotted to the Grant fund.

I look forward to working with the Mayor, members of the Administration, representatives of various nonprofit organizations and my colleagues on the Council to help ensure the best, most beneficial use of City taxpayers' money.

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Super District 9~2 Newsletter

Home Repair Assistance

In 2021, the City Council allocated \$5 million from the City's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the Memphis Division of Housing and Community Development's Home Repair Program. Since then, the Division has been working to implement the program and disburse the money to those qualifying City residents who need it.

The City is using the funds with several partner programs to provide assistance with critical home repairs including roof replacement, weatherization and HVAC replacement. So far, HCD has received more than 130 applications for assistance, and is in the process of verifying eligibility. To apply for assistance, citizens may call 211 or visit www.home901.org.

TDOT responds on litter

After passage of the Joint Memphis/ Shelby County Resolution brought forward by Councilman Canale (see article at right) asking Gov. Lee and the General Assembly to increase TDOT funding for litter cleanup, Council Personnel and Government Affairs Committee Chair Councilwoman Michalyn Easter-Thomas sent a letter to TDOT Interim Commissioner Joseph Galbato III asking TDOT to support the request for more funding.

Galbato responded that TDOT is taking steps to address the litter problem, including assigning additional crews, securing new road sweeping and litter contracts, and hiring a contractor to work on large debris removal.

"We at TDOT understand the ongoing issue of litter on the roadways throughout the state and are doing our best to work with the city of Memphis, our crews, and local law enforcement to remove and prevent it," Galbato said.

Councilman Canale is pleased that TDOT has been responsive to the City's request for assistance, and hopes state officials will ensure that the Department has the funding necessary to continue the response.



State Route Litter

One of the issues about which Councilman Canale hears from citizens – and which he has noticed himself – is the litter along State Routes and Interstates within the Memphis City Limits. Until a few years ago, the City of Memphis had an agreement with the Tennessee Department of Transportation for City contractors to maintain the rights-of-way along these routes. Upon review that determined the arrangement was not beneficial, the City chose not to renew it – leaving the State responsible for its own rights-of-way.

Since then, City contractors have still attempted to supplement TDOT efforts along State Routes (not Interstates), but this is difficult as the City has nearly 6,800 miles of its own roads along which to clean. In March, Councilman Canale introduced before the Council a joint City-County Resolution asking that Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee and the State General Assembly increase funding to TDOT for cleaning along State Routes and Interstates within Shelby County.

All 13 Councilmembers signed on as cosponsors of the Resolution, which after passage by the Council and the Shelby County Commission was transmitted to the State through Shelby County's Legislative Delegation. Councilman Canale is hopeful that State officials will heed the call to step up efforts to keep the land along State Routes and Interstates in Shelby County clean (also, see sidebar at left).

Super District 9~2 Newsletter



Recognitions and Presentations

At the City Council's April 19 meeting, Councilman Canale was honored to recognize both an important observation in the Mid-South, and a sterling example of a City of Memphis employee.

Working in partnership with the Mid-South Transplant Foundation, the Councilman brought a resolution designating April 22, 2022 as "Blue & Green Day Mid-South," to raise awareness of organ and tissue donation and encourage Memphians to register as donors. According to MSTF, more than 106,000 Americans – 4,000 in the Mid-South - are on the national transplant waiting list. With a name being added to this list every 10 minutes, encouraging Memphians to become organ and tissue donors is crucial – a fact to which all 13 Council members attested by signing the Resolution.

At the April 19 meeting, the Councilman also brought a resolution recognizing Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA) Bus Operator Melvin Deener for his 50 years of service to the City as a MATA bus driver. Commended by colleagues and supervisors alike for his attitude and work ethic, Mr. Deener has missed only three scheduled days of work in his 50-year tenure! Along with the entire Council, Councilman Canale saluted Mr. Deener and held him up as an example of dedication to all City employees.



At the Council's March 22 meeting, Councilman Canale sponsored a Resolution recognizing the Christian Brothers High School Basketball Team for winning the 2022 TSSAA Division II-AA State Championship. The Purple Wave's March 5 win over Knoxville Catholic capped an undefeated 28-0 season, making them one of only three teams from Memphis to become undefeated state champions; and concluded a two-year run in which the team had lost only one game.



At the March 1 meeting, the Councilman brought a resolution honoring the work of National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) Memphis Chapter 13, recognizing March 6-12 as "Women in Construction Week" in the City. The more-than-60-year-old organization works to encourage women in Shelby County to pursue careers in construction, and to advocate for those women who are employed in the industry.